

We have e-filed 9 cases this week, including civil (dissolution), criminal (OWI), small claims, and probate. I must stress that these are being filed at the Courthouse, not via the internet from the attorney offices. We have not put the e-filing links on our Judicial website yet - we are not ready to make that leap.

While the number of total number of e-filings may not be impressive, the system is working and as expected we found items that need attention that we never would have seen in a test environment. Most are not huge items, but would cause external and internal user problems.

Earlier in the week, a local attorney and his staff came to the courthouse, brought their documents on a thumb drive and e-filed a contract debt collection case. At the time, they liked the system and would have gone back and begun using it from their office if they could have. The same attorney and staff returned later in the week and e-filed a second case (a dissolution) with limited help from the technical staff onsite.

Once approved, case information and ICIS data was inserted into ICIS for the clerks. The only action that remained for the clerk staff to complete was to receipt the check for the filing fee.

We will not continue e-filing after we leave today as we have additional server integration that needs to be completed, tweaking to do with the interfaces between ICIS2 and e-Flex, and we will be validating every transaction and data field from those cases that have been e-filed. We will continue the e-filing later in the month. In addition, we will be working with the training staff as well on the documentation and training plans to go with this process. We are also working with the vendors to prioritize the work items remaining so that we don't step on each other and also so we can provide needed functionality in a timely matter.

We have our feet in the snowdrifts (right up to our . . .). People inside and outside the court appear excited about this and so far like what they see. Interestingly, we had Pizza delivered on Wednesday as we worked through lunch and the lady delivering lunch saw us in the room and asked Shelly if we were here working on that "online thing". So the local community is aware of what the court is doing as well.

Overall, we have had a very successful week here in Plymouth. The work we have done and actual e-filings completed will move us forward with the Judicial Branch's e-Filing project. My thanks to everyone involved for the great efforts and great work. We are on our way.

Information provided by:
Ken Bosier
Director of Information Systems & Technology
Judicial Branch, State of Iowa